

Draft Minutes
SE SWCD Technical Support JPB
Executive Committee Special Meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
BWSR Office, Rochester MN
9:30 AM

Voting Members Present:

Mark Ihlenfeld (JPB Chair & Steele SWCD Supervisor), Pam Mensink (JPB Vice-Chair & Fillmore SWCD Supervisor)

Others Present:

Glen Roberson (JPB Secretary & Host Manager, Goodhue SWCD), Pete Fryer (JPB Engineer), Larry Scherger (Dodge SWCD Supervisor), Mary Kells (BWSR), Dan Arndt (Steele), Tim Terrill (Winona), Steve Pahs (Rice), Donna Rasmussen (Fillmore), Don Flatness (Freeborn), Pete Fryer (JPB), Dean Schrandt (Dodge County), Linda Dahl (SE MN Water Resources Board), Ralph Tuck (Root River).

Conference Call-Ins:

Jen Dankers (Wabasha), Tom Johnston (Dodge).

Purpose:

To review Feedlot technical needs and opportunities for SE MN; and authorize a plan of action and budget that will be submitted to BWSR by October 8, 2010.

Background:

The SE SWCD Tech Support JPB represents the 11 SWCD's from SE MN, and provides them with Engineering and Technical Assistance. It's 3 staff's main workload deals with feedlot runoff control, and is fully funded for the next two years at current staff levels with a combination of NPEA Base funding (\$125,000 per year), an EPA319 Grant (\$212,000) and BWSR Clean Water Fund Matching Grant (\$220,000).

The new BWSR Feedlot Cost Share funded with Clean Water Funds provides for significantly more engineering and technical assistance than we had anticipated. After the first round of Feedlot CWF contracts were announced (about September 1, 2010), our SWCD's realized the amount of engineering funds available in SE MN provided both a potential conflict of 'supplanting' other funding and an opportunity to increase our feedlot technical abilities. A meeting was held with the grant recipients and local BWSR staff on September 3 to address these issues, and the JPB agreed to bring the issue to the SE MASWCD meeting (same members) on September 16th. On Sept. 16th, the SWCD Supervisors decided to let each SWCD discuss this opportunity at their next local SWCD Board meeting and to have a SE SWCD Tech Support JPB meeting in Mid November 2010 to take action. Mr. Jeff Nielson (BWSR) informed the JPB on September 17th that a draft workplan and budget was needed by October 8th. The JPB sent out a summary to all 11 SWCD's asking them to discuss the issue and submit comments and proposals to the JPB at their JPB Executive Committee Meeting on October 5th, where this plan was authorized.

Actions:

Authorize Host Manager to submit a proposal to BWSR Clean Water Funds for \$183,000 to add 2 Feedlot Engineering Technicians to address the high demand for feedlot technical assistance in SE

MN. These 2 new positions will work on priority feedlot projects coordinated by the JPB lead engineer. The JPB will contract with the Dodge and Wabasha SWCD's, who will employ and house these new positions.

Each position will cost about \$61,000 per year (including salary, health insurance, mileage, and related expenses), so this request is for \$183,000 (2 positions for 1.5 years: January 1 2011 thru June 30, 2012). It is anticipated that future Feedlot Clean Water Fund Cost Share applications will include engineering and technical assistance for these JPB related positions so that they will have longevity.

Funding is justified based on this areas' history of feedlot workload and the 2010 BWSR Feedlot Water Quality Cost Share Program, where 27 projects were funded for \$1,442,936 (construction costs) plus \$165,813 for Engineering/Technical costs (reduced from \$258,126 to avoid 'supplanting': difference of \$92,313). In these applications, the local SWCD's did not include the full engineering costs; and only included their technical costs knowing that the JPB was fully funded for the next 2 years from other sources. The JPB is committed to assist with 22 of the projects, and has already completed the survey and design work on 10 of the projects, making them 'shovel ready'. These new positions will help the JPB reduce its backlog of feedlot technical requests and generate new feedlot project proposals for next year's cost share signup.

These positions will follow the existing successful model for Nutrient Management Planning where the JPB contracts with 2 member SWCD's who employ staff to serve the needs of this area.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM. The Area 7 Managers then held a Managers meeting to discuss the Clean Water Summit and potential changes to water management and conservation program implementation.

Respectfully submitted,



Glen Roberson
Secretary

Jan. 31, 2011